

# Adventure, Escapism and Civilization in Edgar Rice Burroughs's Select Works

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## Abstract

Edgar Rice Burroughs was an American writer, known for his works in science and fantasy. He is the creator of the characters of Tarzan and John Carter. He was born in Chicago in the state of Illinois in the United States of America. His works are steeped in science fiction western fantasy and adventure. He had also served in United States Army. Edgar Rice Burroughs had been a cadet, a trooper and a war correspondent.

**Keywords:** Edgar Rice Burroughs, Tarzan, *A Princess of Mars*.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Edgar Rice Burroughs was an American writer, known for his works in science and fantasy. He is the creator of the characters of Tarzan and John Carter. He was born in Chicago in the state of Illinois in the United States of America. His works are steeped in science fiction western fantasy and adventure. He had also served in United States Army. Edgar Rice Burroughs had been a cadet, a trooper and a war correspondent. A war correspondent is a journalist who covers stories in a war zone. He had served his country in World War I and World War II. He gained fame for the creation of two characters, Tarzan and John Carter. The former brought him a lot of fame.

## II. TARZAN

Edgar Rice Burroughs wrote the Tarzan series. The series comprises of a total of twenty-four novels, all of which are adventure novels. An adventure novel contains fiction. It presents danger and excitement. The Tarzan series were published between 1912 and 1966. The Tarzan series are considered a classic now and is one of the most famous literary characters in the world. It has been adapted for film and television. Some of the main books published are *Tarzan of The Apes* (1912), *The Return of Tarzan* (1913), *The Beasts of Tarzan* (1914), *The Son of Tarzan* (1915 to 1916), *Tarzan and The Jewels of Opar* (1916), *Jungle Tales of Tarzan* (1916 to 1917), *Tarzan The Untamed* (1917 to 1920), *Tarzan The Terrible* (1921), *Tarzan and The Golden Lion* (1922-1923), *Tarzan and The Ant Men* (1924), *Tarzan, Lord of The Jungle* (1927 to 1928). The story centres on Tarzan, who is raised as a baby by the apes in an African jungle. He is adopted by a female ape, Kala. Adventure, escapism and civilization are the main themes of the series.

## III. A PRINCESS OF MARS

*A Princess of Mars* is a science fantasy novel. Science fantasy has a combination of science fiction and fantasy. Fantasy contains supernatural elements. *A Princess of Mars* is the first novel of the Barsoom series. It depicts John Carter, a fictional soldier from Virginia and a veteran of the American Civil War. In the Barsoom series, John Carter is sent to Planet Mars. Planet Mars is called as Barsoom by its people. John Carter is depicted fighting with aliens and mythological animals. This character has been adapted for film and television as well. It is a well known name in pop culture now. John Carter belongs to the late nineteenth century.

*A Princess of Mars* is an example of pulp fiction. The setting of the story is Mars. Mars is depicted to be a dying planet in the novel, with the a harsh desert environment. The novel is set in the late 1800s. Initially,

John Carter started out as a captive. He slowly rises to the status of a warrior and fights in multiple battles. Towards end of the novel, he becomes a prince of a royal family. Carter marries Princess Dejah, which elevates him to the status of a prince. Adventure, escapism and civilization are the main themes.

#### **REFERENCES**

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